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IN AUTUMN **P.8**

今日北京

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SOCIAL MATTERS

ARTIST ZHOU LILONG PAINTS GENTLE FEMALE CHARACTERS
THAT EMBODY HIS EMOTIONS; BUT HE ALSO ILLUSTRATES
THE HARD ASPECTS OF SOCIAL ISSUES **P.4**



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BEIJING YOUTH DAILY

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ENTERTAINMENT



The Cost of Guest Stars in Chinese Series

BY DIAO DIAO

Nanpai Sanshu, author of the famous *Tomb Notes*, appears as a guest star in Tencent's *Darker II* online series. Nanpai's first on-screen appearance helped pull the attention of many readers

to the show.

The TV series *Separate* features a guest appearance by the members of TF Boys, a popular boy band.

The shows are part of a growing trend

that features Chinese celebrities as guests to win new eyeballs. But what's in it for the guests?

Chinese series began experimenting with guest appearances in 1994. When the

sitcom *I Love My Family* ran into financial trouble, director Ying Da decided to invite his friends to appear and make a few roles.

But unlike guest stars of the past, who were expected to work like regular actors, modern TV series seem to be banking on a hackneyed celebrity effect.

In 2013's *Longmen Express*, actor Li Chen appeared for only several minutes and perished with hardly a line uttered.

It's long been assumed that guest stars offer a boost to ratings, but Peng Fuli, the general manager of Vlinkage, a Chinese data analysis company, said guest stars offer a limited boost unless they play a significant role in the story.

Peng said guest stars only boost the exposure of a series or film by generating discussion before it airs. Producers sometimes rely on guest stars to drive up the sale price of a film that relies on too much new talent.

Actress Yang Mi promoted many of the young actors and actresses in her own company by pairing them with famous celebrities in *V Love*, her 2014 online series.

Jia Nailiang and Li Xiaolu, a famous celebrity couple in China, invited many friends as guest stars on the TV series *Male Doctors in the Obstetrical Department* in 2014. But the guest actors did not receive any compensation for their work; Jia said he would not pay friends.

Bai Yicong, the producer of *Darker II*, said the guest actors would be given red envelopes as thanks.

But insiders said many of the top-tier actors and actresses charge millions of yuan for their several days of acting. Some are known to charge more than 10 million yuan to play a main character.

At such costs, it's hard to say whether guest stars bring tangible benefits to a TV series or movie. Those who choose to appear risk being blamed for being a gimmick in a below-average series or film. ■

Singer-Songwriter's First Book Lands on the Mainland

BY DIAO DIAO

Singer-songwriter Chen Qizhen's first book, *Nowhere Else*, made its debut on the Chinese mainland last month.

Her path to fame mirrors that of many Chinese singers. As a young girl, Chen began composing songs for fun and moved on to singing competitions during her university years.

She found fame at her second singing competition, where pioneering rocker Wu Bai decided Chen should be the winner because it was rare to see a girl both playing guitar and singing original songs. Even today, she is one of the few female singers in Chinese music industry to write her own songs.

In her early career, Chen also wrote songs for other famous singers such as Fred Zhang and Yeung Chin-Wah. Later she became the first female singer signed to Rock Records.

Five years later, Chen founded her own studio and began recording *The Meaning*

of the Journey, the album that made her a household name with Chinese listeners.

The journey to complete her first book began in the summer of 2011, when Chen stayed in Havana for a week and recorded what she saw and heard.

Unlike singers who publish books to gain attention or earn money, Chen wrote the book for herself and hadn't planned to publish it.

Chen graduated from the philosophy department at National Chengchi University in Taiwan. Her studies gave her a special love for books and writing, and Chen took up writing for pleasure.

Chen decided to spend four hours alone sitting in front of her computer to record her feelings about Havana.

To improve her writing skills, Chen returned to her university and attended classes in critical literature under Professor Chen Fangming. When the professor sug-



gested Chen publish her draft, she refused due to a lack of confidence.

Later on, she reread her book while sick in the hospital and decided her professor might be right.

Before publishing the book, Chen made several changes to the articles.

"The rough draft was like a travel diary. The revised book adds some interesting details that people hardly notice during the journey. During the third edit, I began to add some of my own understandings that I learned from the journey. I enrolled in more philosophy classes and made a few other changes before publication," Chen said.

The book consists of 38 prose sections, seven letters, two dialogues and a Q&A session.

But Chen said she still doesn't think she can be a writer.

"I travel, and I learn things on my journeys. Sometimes I need to stop and enjoy life and go back to music," Chen said. ■



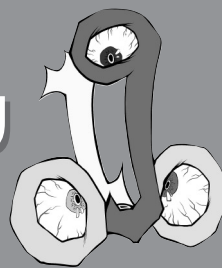
Photos by CFP & douban.com

MUSIC



Photos by 0190

0190 Goes Up, Goes Down



BY DIAO DIAO

When Liu Bofei got the call that his band was wanted for a top music festival, he couldn't have been more excited. Liu and his band mates began preparing for their stage show, booking rehearsal rooms and dreaming big.

Then they were told the festival was off.

"Among the single digits, zero is the smallest, and nine is the biggest. Our mood was like going from zero to one, then up directly to nine and finally crashing back to zero," said Liu, the guitarist of 0190 Band.

But at least the experience gave them a name.

0190 describes many moments in life, Liu said: the feeling of playing and losing the lottery, confessing to a girl or watching fireworks go off.

Liu got his start by playing guitar for Caffeine in 2004. He had many new ideas and wanted to sing his own songs, so he thought about starting a new band.

His old friend Gao Gui, the bass player in Children's Sky Band, was looking for something new at about the same time. Gao persuaded Zhen Song, the drummer to come along.

Liu follows the same creative process as most indie rockers. But where his peers tell big stories about giving up the chance to attend the Berklee College of Music, Liu is notable in that he never had an offer



to Berklee or anywhere else.

Liu never went to college. While he said he admires those who pursue an academic experience, music comes more from life experience than educational achievement.

"I don't see any reason to compare

myself with others. One makes progress by competing with himself," Liu said.

And music is his competition. Liu constantly attempts to write better songs than his past work – a near impossible task for any musician. That's also the reason the band's catalog remains so small.

Liu's favorite song is "Graduation," in which he describes what he imagines dorm life and graduation to be like.

"There's always some distance between dreams and reality, and that's the most pathetic thing in life. But I think it's also why life is interesting. We try to find ways to shorten that distance," Liu said.

Playing music with 0190 is Liu's attempt.

Gao also noted his disappointment with reality. Gao became depressed when failed to answer the first and easiest multiple-choice question on a college math test. Rock was his escape from school life.

Gao applied to the Beijing Contemporary Music Academy and started a new life.

Gao said his band mates are rich in integrity and life experience.

"It was like the famous saying, 'You are what you eat.' The band is what its members do," Gao said.

Although the band doesn't earn enough to cover his rent and food costs in Beijing, Gao and his friends press on. ■

LIVE SHOW ROUNDUP

Beijing boasts one of the world's most vibrant indie music scenes. Support our local artists with a trip to one of this week's live performances!

Tong Yan @ Slow Living

Tong Yan is a 1980s Libra who spent five years studying Japanese in Dalian, Liaoning province. She came to Beijing and started working in 2006. But the job she found was nothing related to her major but all about music. Tong and her friends founded their own rock label and started to arrange live shows in 2008 while composing on the side. In March, Tong and Wanayi Band released a new album and kicked off their national tour.

Sept. 12, 8:30-10:30 p.m.

73 Daxing Hutong, Dongcheng

50 yuan (pre sale), 60 yuan (at door)

Erzat & Nathan Borofka @ 69 Cafe

Erzat is an Uygur folk and psychedelic rock singer from the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. Nathan Borofka is an American who plays a fusion of folk, country, blues and other old styles. Borofka loves Johnny Cash and Elliott Smith, and the two musicians heavily influence his style. He completed and released his first album in May.

Sept. 12, 9-11 p.m.

109 Nanluogu Xiang, Dongcheng

30 yuan

Ran Music Showcase @ DDC Club

Ran Music is excited to announce its first label showcase, RAN LIVE Vol. 1, which will be held on Sept. 12 at Dusk Dawn Club. The lineup boasts some of Beijing scene's most exciting artists, including rapper MC Dawei, electronic jazz duo Soulspeak and Ttechmak, sweaty garage rock band Luv Plastik and up-and-coming house producer JRG.

Sept. 12, 8-11 p.m.

14 Shanlao Hutong, Dongcheng

42 yuan (pre sale), 50 yuan (at door)

The Uncrowned @ Mao Live House

The Uncrowned were founded in 2010 by a guitarist and bassist who became friends in college. The two took their first metal band on a national tour to look for more band members. Today's lineup includes members from Nanjing, the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, and a member from Russia. After traveling for two years, The Uncrowned came to Beijing. Their first album, *Yong Wang Zhi Qian*, was released earlier this year, but the bassist plans to quit because of work pressure. The remaining members will say goodbye to the bassist after this show.

Sept. 12, 8:30-11:30 p.m.

111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng

60 yuan (pre sale), 80 yuan (at door)



ARTISTS



Wedding

Fantasy Females and Social Ills

BY SHU PENGQIAN



Girl with Minority Costume



Left Behind

The Artist
Zhou LiLong

Butterfly Love



Dream



Time

William Adolphe Bouguereau, a 19th century French artist, drew gentle females: fairy maidens, goddesses, ordinary women and countryside girls. Today, Chinese artist Zhou Lilong does the same.

Zhou's *Lady in Red* depicts a mature lady who shoots the viewer a glance across her back. *Girl with Minority Costume* features a Miao girl who gives off an air of purity and simplicity. *Sit on the Balcony and Appreciate Scenery* features a girl in a white dress, who is looking outside thoughtfully.

The female characters are based on Zhou's own concept of women. No model is able to exactly express what he wants to embody in his paintings, so Zhou paints from imagination rather than models.

Although young females are Zhou's chief subject matter, he also experiments with other styles.

"Many people ask me, 'What's your painting style?' I always reply, 'None,'" Zhou said. "I don't want to declare a style. I prefer to follow my heart. When I decide on a subject, I just paint it without any consideration of style."

Guan Gong, one of his paintings, proves this point.

Guan Gong is the honorific name of Guan Yu, a famous general of the Han Dynasty. The classical novel *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* describes Guan Gong as the God of War and the embodiment of loyalty, justice and kindness.

"I am planning to expand to more heroes of ancient China, such as Zhao Yun (Three Kingdoms), Yue Fei (Song Dynasty) and Huo Qubing (Han Dynasty)," Zhou said. He is also preparing for a series of figures based on Chinese mythology, including one of the goddess Nü Wa.

Apart from the above two genres, Zhou seeks inspiration in social phenomena and daily matters.

His *Wedding* features a bride in a traditional red wedding gown holding a strip of red silk and sitting quietly while waiting for her bridegroom. A red kerchief that's designed to arouse curiosity covers the bride's face: is she happy, nervous or sad?

"A wedding is an important day that should be noisy and joyous, yet the bride sits alone in the quiet room. There are no relatives or friends accompany her – only a burning candle. The scene of *Wedding* is designed to convey the bride's loneliness," Zhou said.

Where *Wedding* is an expression of Zhou's personal emotion, *Left Behind* shows the social troubles that aged people face in the countryside.

Lured by prosperous and bustling cities, many young Chinese abandon their hometowns to seek their fortune. Their aging parents are left behind to look after the children, who grow up and leave the village one after another.

Zhou watched his own village in Hengyang, Hunan province fall silent.

"I feel so sad for the old people who are left alone, but I have no way to help them or solve this social dilemma. The only thing I can do is paint. I hope my paintings can remind people that these old people living outside the big city still need our care," he said.

Zhou came from a family of modest means and was left with a 30,000 yuan debt after college.

"To make a living and pay off my debt, I took a job as an animator instead of the artist I hoped to be," he said.

The dream of being a freelance artist took Zhou six years to achieve. This year was the first time he was able to quit his job to attempt life as a painter.

"I've put my heart and soul into building a career as a painter and creating to the fullest," Zhou said. ■



TRAVEL



9 Venues in Beijing with Exquisite Designs

BY MING LAN

Beijing's interesting buildings aren't limited to sky pants and traditional architecture. It also has beautiful libraries, galleries, courtyards and restaurants that realize the visions of international architects. We picked a few Beijing venues with exquisite designs, as recommended by the architecture magazine *Building Structure*.

Liyuan Library

Liyuan Library is located in Huairou District. The building, designed by Tsinghua University architecture professor Li Xiaodong, is made of 45,000 pieces of firewood.

Its materials, such as wood, steel and glass, have never been chemically processed and can be replaced at anytime. The building is environmentally friendly and has no electricity or water. Its hours "rise with the sun and rest with the sunset." The library is closed from October to May.

The library's interior design is very simple, with large staircases and bookshelves. Books are placed underneath the staircases, which also serve as reading spaces. There are no partitions or furniture, which emphasizes the unity of its space.

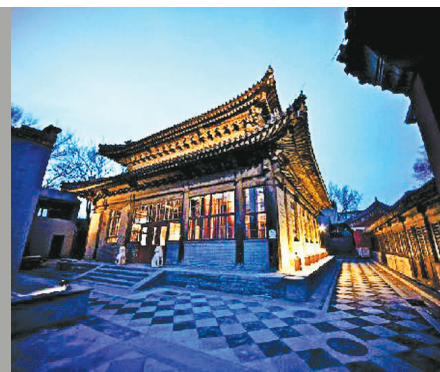


Tales Pavilion

A building grows like grass at 6 Fangyuanxi Rd. in Chaoyang District. Italian designer Luca Nichetto's first architecture project, Tales Pavilion, has a facade made of 1,200 vertical brass tubes that resemble blades of grass. With the passing of time, the brass tubes will oxidize and change color naturally. Nichetto also created the building's delicate and simple interior design.

Temple Restaurant Beijing

Temple Restaurant Beijing is housed inside a 600-year-old temple. The building's original structure was preserved, but the interior design radiates with post-modern simplicity. The brown marble floors, paired with walls of the same color, white dining tables and light-colored seats are brought alive by flowers and colorful paintings. The restaurant serves some of the best contemporary European food in the city.



CupOne

CupOne is a modern yet quiet cafe on Fuanxi Road. The place also serves as a restaurant, library and venue for small parties and gatherings.

The first and second floors are connected by a spiral staircase of 30 steel plates. Spanish designer Manuel Zornoza summed up the idea behind CupOne's design in one sentence: "We show something without showing it."

Hongkun Art Gallery

Hongkun Art Gallery is an 800-square-meter venue located at 42 West Dawang Road. Upon entering, there is a sudden silence. The white surroundings with flowing streamlines give the gallery a surreal feeling.

Inside the gallery, clean walls give way to works of art. Little arch designs can only be found on the doorknobs, which helps the viewer to avoid distraction.

The designers, architects at the firm Penda, said the curves were inspired by China's mountains and valleys.

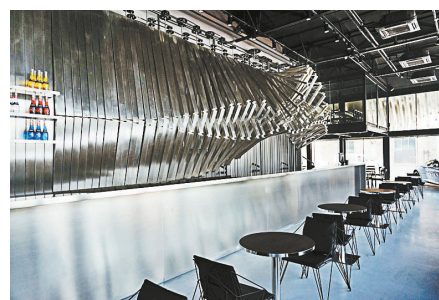
in the glass room.

The main dining area resembles a giant tomato – the greenhouse's best-known product. Dining feels like being inside a gigantic piece of installation art.

Tree Art Gallery

Tree Art Gallery has a curvy design, with an interior courtyard that wraps around a fishpond and a single tree. Zig-zagging ramps at one end of the building lead directly to a rooftop terrace.

Curvy walls separate but do not cut



ACE Cafe

Rock 'n' roll, motorcycles and coffee sound like a great combination. ACE Cafe, located in 798 Art Zone, is built on the site of the old 751 train station. The station and locomotive have been renovated in a post-industrial design.

The venue has a dynamic feeling, with a stainless steel wall that is "able to breathe." The wall evokes the incessant machines from olden days.

the space into sections. No signs are needed in the building, and visitors can follow their instincts to explore every corner.

Architect Dai Pu thinks that experiencing space freely is the best form of conversation between people and art. ■

Sunny Zhang contributed research.



King's Joy Restaurant

King's Joy Restaurant is an upscale vegetarian restaurant whose chef aims to promote healthy vegetarian eating.

But the restaurant, located near the Lama Temple at 2 Wudaoying Hutong, stands out on its good design. The building is a courtyard, though not a traditional one. Its design accentuates the contrast between the outdoor and indoor, allowing the spaces to expand into each other.

Zhang Yonghe, an architecture professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, contributed to the restaurant's design. Zhang is very fond of old Beijing courtyards. He said the traditional idea of Chinese architecture is an enhancer of "harmony between people and the earth."

ETCETERA

Bì Dōng, Xīn Sè, Yán Zhí



Bì Dōng (壁咚)

Since the popular TV series *Silent Separation*, also called *Heyi Shengxiao Mo*, has aired on several TV stations, always managing to score top ratings, a new verb, Bì Dōng, has entered the Chinese vocabulary.

In the series, He Yichen is a dream husband. But most importantly, his love story with Zhao Mosheng is full of kisses. He often kisses Zhao in a rude way. He pushes her against the wall and forcefully kisses her. Netizens are calling such behavior Bì Dōng. Bì means wall, and Dōng is the sound of hitting the wall. Now girls say, "I want to be Bì Dōng-ed by someone."



Xīn Sè (心塞)

Xīn Sè, also called Xīn Sǎi, is the abbreviation of Xīn Jī Gēng Sè, acute myocardial infarction. But now the phrase is used as a joke when someone is at a loss for words. For example, a woman will say "I'm Xīn Sè" when all her friends are married while she is still single.

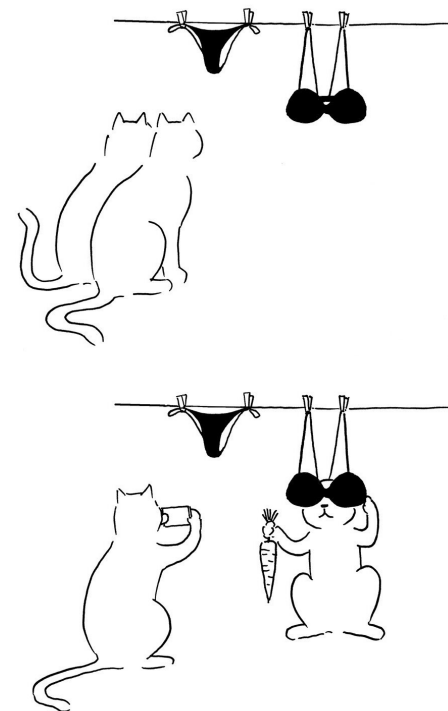


Yán Zhí (颜值)

Yán Zhí is a new word used to evaluate a person's appearance. Yán means face or appearance, and Zhí means value. Netizens often say that someone's Yán Zhí is very high to express their appreciation for his or her beautiful appearance. ■



WEEKLY TANGO



TANGO

Tango studies at Tsinghua University's Academy of Art and Design. For more comics, follow his Sina Weibo feed at [@tangocartoon](#).

Ask Beijing Today

"Ask Beijing Today" is our weekly column that attempts to make life in China less confusing. You can email your own questions to ask@beijingtoday.com.cn.

Lou's sometimes.

Mrs. Shanen's
○ Closed on Mondays

➤ Building 13, Sanjiefang, Jiuxianqiao, Chaoyang

Q. What's the best place to get bagels in Beijing?

A. Ms. Shanen's bread shop is really famous here, and most foreigners regard it as the best option. It has been operating in Shunyi District for a long time, and now it even has a branch in Chaoyang. Ms. Shanen's bagels are also available for delivery in many parts of the city, as well as for sale in places like Jenny

Q. I quite enjoy having some beer during summer. But I don't enjoy overly bitter ales. Can you recommend some of the best beer available in Beijing?

A. There are many popular Chinese brands such as Yanjing, Tsingtao, Snow and Chun Sheng. But you can also try some of Beijing's microbreweries, such as Great Leap Brewing and Arrow Factory Brewing, whose owners make delightful beer in

small batches. Some of it is indeed bitter, but you can ask the bartender to recommend a pale ale or heffe weizen.

Q. Is there a tennis league or club or social group I can join? I am a really keen tennis player.

A. Beijing International Tennis Centre is located in Chongwen District and hosts most major tennis tournaments in the city. Non-members can use the facilities for reasonable prices. Racquets and balls can be rented. ■

Beijing International Tennis Centre

➤ 50 Tiantan Donglu, Dongcheng

THE BEIJING TODAY HUMOR

Q. Any advice on dating a lawyer?

A. Don't get divorced. You won't come out of it with anything.

Q. Is it true that Einstein only slept three hours a day?

A. Well, I heard that he sleeps 24 hours a day now.

Q. Why are dishwashing machines so expensive? The technology isn't that complicated, is it?

A. Because they ease family conflicts.

Q. Why do women wear bras?

A. To distinguish the flat-chested ones from men.

(Questions selected from Zhihu)

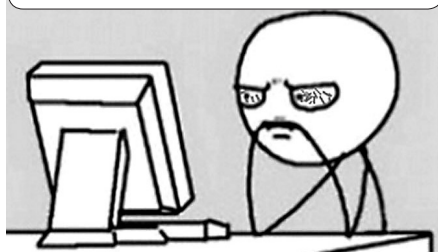


Q. Why do girls cover their mouths when guys are proposing to them?

A. So that guys can't see them mouthing "OMG" or "WTF."

Q. Any recommendations on books to read for a programmer?

A. *Prevention and Treatment of Cervical Spondylosis*.



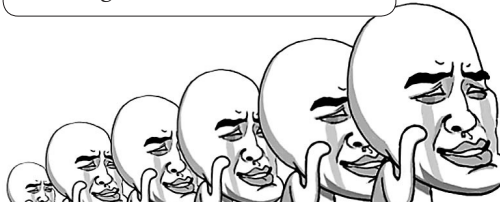
Q. Why does my boyfriend always think the men around me are trying to get into my pants?

A. He knows men too well.



Q. I just confessed to a girl, and she thought it was just a joke. What can I do?

A. Don't be silly. She was just being nice.



Q. Why are there so many guys who say they are lonely and desperate for a date still single?

A. They have the unfortunate affliction of being both ugly and ignorant enough to believe most girls aren't up to their standards.



Q. Should I be happy that my ex-boyfriend's new girlfriend is ugly?

A. What does it say that he'd rather be with an ugly woman than with you?



Q CLASSIFIEDS

CULTURE

THEACHER
DANCER - COREOGRAPHER
FABRICIO MORONI
BUENOS AIRES
TANGO
TANGO - MILONGA - VALS
SALÓN - STAGE



Experienced tango instructor, performer and choreographer born in Buenos Aires, Argentina and spreading his tango in Colombia, Peru, Spain and other countries. Dancer he joined the renowned tango companies of Mora Godoy and Vivlos Tango, and the Neo Tango. He took part in shows in Buenos Aires and other cities.

Learn Tango with Fabricio Moroni of Buenos Aires

Tango fans who want to learn with an Argentinean artist who teaches at an acceptable price, now it's your chance! Fabricio Moroni is an experienced tango dancer, choreographer and teacher from Buenos Aires who will be teaching at Beijing bilingual tango school from Sept. 15 to Oct. 13.

The school is planning regular theme workshops and holiday stage-focused tango drills. Holiday and early-bird discounts are available on registration. Classes run from 90 to 120 minutes.

⌚ 7:30-9:30 pm, September 15-October 15
➔ Maizidian Community Center (8 min walk from Liangmaqiao line 10 exit C and Kempinsky Hotel)/Cheers (Gulou) 245 Gulou East St. (8 min, walk from Shichahai line 8 exit C)
☎ 13681014992

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☎ 13681014992



Mahjong Class

If you have never played Mahjong, you're in for a treat. Mahjong has a long history in China and remains the country's most popular tabletop game to this day.

During Spring Festival, families play Mahjong for entertainment and gambling.

Come and learn about this addictive Chinese game of strategy and chance!

⌚ 3:30-5 pm, September 17
➔ Jianwai SOHO Building 9, Room 605 (6th floor)
☎ (010) 5869 5800
✉ info@chinaledu.com

MUSIC

MOZART
Humoresque
MozART Group 3rd tour in China



弦乐四重奏
莫扎特
百变莫扎特

MozART Group Humoresque

The musicians of the MozART group are well-educated instrumentalists who graduated from prestigious Academies of Music in Warsaw and Lodz but who decided to play classical music in a humorous way.

The MozART group has created a worldwide unique musical cabaret, where the music, not the words is the source of joy and laughs. By using classical composition as canvas, analyzing its structure and theme, surrounding it with musical associations and brilliant, outstanding ideas, the final product becomes something that can surprise, amaze and bring a listener to tears.

The four members of MozART have been playing together since 1995. They have performed concerts across Europe, Canada, the US and Asia. The quartet also performs with colleagues around the world, including shows with the mime Irek Krosny or the multi-talented Bobby McFerrin.

⌚ 7:30 - 9 pm, September 17
➔ Qinghua University, Chengfu Lu, Haidian
☎ (010) 6278 9437
💰 60-280 yuan
🌐 mozartgroup.net



Mulan Presented by China's Only All-Female Percussion Ensemble

An inspiring journey for the family, Mulan recounts the same 1,600 year-old Chinese folk tale made famous by the 1998 Academy Award-winning Disney animated film. It's the classic story of a Chinese peasant girl who disguises her-

self as a man so that she can take her ailing father's place as a soldier in the war against the Huns.

By artfully combining phenomenal drumming techniques, dynamic LED lighting, kung fu and dance, Red Poppy turns this timeless story of one young girl's bravery into a rich, visual and unique theatrical experience.

Red Poppy is China's first and only all-female percussion ensemble. Founded in 2000, the group has toured in 30 countries, performed at world-famous venues such as the Sydney Opera House and Kennedy Arts Center, and participated in more than 2,500 performances since its debut.

Red Poppy was also invited to perform at three Olympics (Athens, Beijing, and London). At the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Red Poppy performed in the Closing Ceremony and designed the "Fou" drums used by world-renowned Director Zhang Yimou in the Opening Ceremony. The instrument is featured again in Mulan.

⌚ 7:30 pm, September 18, 19, 25, 26
➔ Beijing Qinglan Theater, 3F Qinglan Building, 24 Dongsishitiao, Dongcheng
💰 80-280 yuan
☎ 18511248614

DINING



Oktoberfest at Sunrise Kempinski Hotel, Beijing & Yanqi Island

Oktoberfest, held annually in Munich, is coming to Sunrise Kempinski Hotel, Beijing. Come and be pampered during four beer-soaked party nights this Sept. 18-21.

In addition to home-brewed Bavarian beers and authentic German food, this year's boisterous Bavarian parties will include top onstage entertainment from Donautal Trio, plus challenging competitions and fantastic prizes!

To mark the official opening of the festival, Paulaner brewmaster Wolfgang Sesser will tap the first keg of Bavarian beer with Brice Pean, general manager of Sunrise Kempinski Hotel Beijing, on Sept. 18.

Join the Kempinski for a fantastic Oktoberfest weekend of authentic Bavar-

ian beer, German food, the Donautal Trio and an amazing view of Yan Mountain.

⌚ 3:30-5 pm, September 17
➔ Jianwai SOHO, Building 9, 6F, Room 605, Chaoyang
☎ (010) 5869 5800
✉ info@chinaledu.com

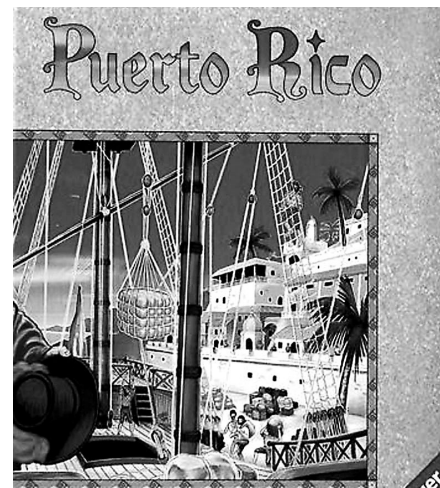


The World of Rice and Wine Dinners

Visit Nijao Spanish restaurant to enjoy a unique experience with three food experts from around the world! Nijao owner and executive chef Alejandro is putting together a very special six-course rice menu with wine pairings, together with Omar from Mercante and Taka from Sake Manzo, to give diners the experience of the best tasting rice dishes from three countries. All dishes are created specially for this event.

⌚ September 24
➔ Nijao, 3/F, Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang
☎ (010) 5208 6052
✉ info@chinaledu.com
💰 498 yuan

COMMUNITY



Chaoyang Boardgame Geeks

From September, the Chaoyang Boardgame Geeks are seeking competitive players who love board games and who can quickly pick up and play new games. A good board game session requires everyone to be (mostly) paying attention and giving it their all.

These gaming events are "offline" and offer the opportunity to get out and meet new people. Players are occasionally expected to show up with food or beverages to support the session. Gaming sessions will be on Friday nights.

⌚ 8:30 pm - 12:30 am
➔ Chaoyang (various locations)
✉ timdorsett@gmail.com

FOODS



Photos by abc2008.com

Chinese Beers for Overcast Fall Days

BY WANG YAN

In Beijing, summer is defined by scenes of shirtless men sitting on the street eating kabobs and emptying cases of beer – served at room temperature, more often than not.

But in spite of its popularity, beer remains a relative newcomer to Chinese culture.

The majority of Chinese-produced alcohol is baijiu, a distilled grain spirit that averages 40 to 60 percent alcohol by volume. But in recent years, baijiu has picked up a reputation for being dad or grandpa's drink of choice. Younger drinkers favor beer overwhelmingly.

A EuroMonitor International report in 2014 said that China is set to overtake the US as the world's largest beer market by 2017. Since China opened its door to the world decades ago, international brands such as Corona, Budweiser and Carlsberg have entered the mainland and become popular choices.

That's not to say that Chinese beer brands are being squeezed out. Far from it. Most Chinese drinkers stick to local brews such as Tsingtao, Snow or Beijing's own Yanjing.

Tsingtao is China's first and best-known beer. Produced by a brewery based in Qingdao, a coastal city in Shandong Province, it is made

with mineral water from the nearby Laoshan Mountain and according to a German recipe.

Tsingtao was first produced by a joint German-British venture at a brewery in the German concession of Qingdao in 1903.

In 1979, when China began opening up to the outside world, it was one of the first products to be officially exported and is now a mainstay of Chinese restaurants around the world.

Tsingtao Beer has a pleasant aroma and a well-balanced taste. It has high-malty flavor and well-hopped character. Tsingtao also advertises itself as using the finest yeast and barley imported from Australia and Canada in its brewing process.

Another very popular beer brand on the Chinese mainland is Snow, brewed by CR Snow, a joint venture between a British brewing company and China Resources Enterprises. According to a report by *The Guardian*, Snow became the best-selling beer brand in the world in 2008.

Snow beer comes in a very light straw color with a fizzy head that doesn't stick around very long.

Influenced by Euro pale brewing techniques, Snow tastes slightly vegetal and has a crackery malt. Overall, the beer tastes thin and light. ■

Pink Elephant Beer House

BY WANG YAN



Photo by dianping.com

Sometimes a restaurant's name says it all. It's not hard to guess that the Pink Elephant Beer House favors cute, delicate and modern decoration.

Located on Baiziwan Road in Chaoyang District, the beer house is easily identified by the rows of beer bottles that line its large French windows. But Pink Elephant offers more than mere trendy decorations: it sells more than 200 kinds of beer, including craft beers from Germany, the UK, the US and China.

Many customers said they were impressed by Pink Elephant's refrigerator wall, and that its atmosphere can even persuade non-drinkers to try a sip.

But a beer house has to offer more than bottled suds. Pink Elephant serves Western snacks such as onion rings and French fries, and well as traditional Chinese favorites like boiled soybeans and spicy seafood.

The beer house also serves kabobs of roasted chicken wings and lamb.

Dianping reviewers praised Pink Elephant's wasabi octopus, noting that the potent horseradish went well with most beers.

The cozy interior makes the beer house an ideal venue for small gatherings. Outdoor seating is available in summer and autumn. ■

Pink Elephant Beer House

16 Baiziwan road, Chaoyang
18610556533

MAKE YOUR OWN WITH THIS RECIPE

Learn to Make Beer Chicken

BY WANG YAN

In many cultures, alcohol is as much a relaxation aid as it is a culinary ingredient. This simple Chinese recipe will help you to spice up a family gathering or a romantic night at home.



Ingredients:

- ☐ 1/2 chicken
- ☐ scallions
- ☐ ginger
- ☐ 2 cloves garlic
- ☐ 1/2 bottle of beer
- ☐ 15g soy sauce
- ☐ 5g dark soy sauce
- ☐ 5g Chinese cooking wine

Photos by nicpic.com

The Steps:

1. Cube the chicken, peel the garlic and wash the ginger.
2. Prepare your wok by heating a spoonful of oil. Before it begins to smoke, add the garlic, ginger and scallions, and stir-fry.
3. Add chicken cubes, and continue to stir-fry.
4. Add the Chinese cooking wine, followed by the soy sauce and dark soy sauce. Continue to stir-fry.
5. Pour in the beer. Cover the wok with a lid, and boil for 20 minutes, stir-frying occasionally.
6. Transfer the chicken to a serving plate.